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Family Prayers

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FAMILY PRAYERS

FOR A FORTNIGHT.

By G. B. R. B.

BIBLIOTHECA
SEP 1880
BODLEIANA

Second Edition.

LONDON:
KERBY & ENDEAN, 190 OXFORD STREET.
1879.

138. i. 547.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION . .	v
PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION . . .	vii
PRAYERS	1-82
ADDITIONAL PRAYERS . . .	83-86

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION.

THIS book was formerly published under the name "Incense:" but a valid objection has been made to that title.

Many have said that the prayers just express all that they wish to ask for in their families, and as old copies are worn out and the habit has not been formed by which the book can be dispensed with, a new edition has become necessary. Slight alterations have been made, and a few sentences added, which were written in the margin of the copy used by the mother who first taught the compiler to pray.

One important alteration has been suggested, but not adopted. It is said that

family prayers in the form of a Litany or of Collects are preferred. But it is easy to add short suffrages, and to gather from the Psalms responsive petitions: and if any prefer the form of Collects, it will be found easy to divide the prayers here given into two or three such Collects.

G.B.R.B.

November, 1878.

PREFACE.

It is well that every head of a house should himself, and in his own words, bring before Our Father which is in heaven, the needs of his household.

Inasmuch, however, as many find themselves unable to do so, the following simple petitions are printed.

In using them it will be found easy to introduce, in fitting place, any supplications, as for example, for absent members of the family. And the habit of thus adding to the prayer may at last so grow as that he who

has used these prayers may be able to pray in his family without their aid.

"O Thou that hearest prayer, unto Thee shall all flesh come."

FAMILY PRAYERS.

The Lord's Day Morning.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, who by Thine only begotten Son hast opened the gates of everlasting life, conquering sin and death and the grave, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast begotten us unto a lively hope by His resurrection from the dead. We draw near to Thee this morning as Thy family, members of His body: and we pray Thee that showing forth His death we may share in His resurrection. Be with us according to our need. Grant us now and continually the spirit of grace and of supplication. As we draw near to worship Thee in

outward form and service, may we lift up our hearts with our hands, and worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Be with those who shall minister Thy holy Word and Sacraments. Grant that they may rightly divide the word of truth, and rightly and duly administer Thy holy Sacraments. Grant that Thy Word may not return to Thee void, but may accomplish that to which Thou dost send it. Specially we pray for those who with us shall worship Thee; for those who shall lead and present our worship and shall minister to us in holy things. May Thy blessing rest upon them and upon us, that Thy Name may be glorified.

Keep us from evil, we beseech Thee, O Lord: be with this house and with all who dwell in it; and at the close of this Thy day, bring us again as a family to worship Thee

in safety and in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon this family and household, this day and continually.

The Lord's Day Evening.

O Almighty God and everlasting Father, we bless Thee and give Thee thanks for Thy continual lovingkindness and tender mercy. Thou hast been with us during the past day: into Thy hands we commend ourselves for this night: we give Thee thanks that Thou hast kept us: we pray Thee evermore to shield and defend us whom Thou hast made Thy servants.

Forgive us, O Lord our God, we beseech Thee, whereinsoever we have done amiss this day. Pardon our wandering thoughts, our worldly cares, our anxieties for this life. Pardon us if Thy Word has not wrought its

work in us; if we have not shown forth the life of Christ; if we have failed to bring up our measure of prayer and of praise. Cleanse us in the blood of the Lamb which taketh away the sin of the world. Receive us graciously: love us freely.

And now we pray Thee to take us under Thy gracious care and keeping. Preserve us this night from all danger: refresh us with rest; and grant that we may rise with renewed vigour to fulfil the part which Thou dost commit to us, and to work the work to which Thou dost call us.

We pray Thee for all those who are afflicted in mind, body, or estate: evermore be to them a sanctuary: give them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

We pray Thee for those who this day

have ministered Thy holy Word and Sacraments. May those who water others be watered of Thee.

Finally we pray Thee to bless the children and servants of this family. Make us all ready for the rest which remaineth for the people of God, when He who is our life shall appear, and we also shall appear with Him.

Hear us, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Ghost, one God, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

[The Lord's Prayer.]

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with us all. Amen.

Monday Morning.

O Lord, our God and our Father, who hast raised us from our beds in the measure of health and strength in which Thou givest to each of us to work our work, we bless Thee for Thy goodness: we acknowledge Thy great mercy: we give thanks unto Thee and bless Thy glorious name. Thou hast preserved us from evil: Thou hast kept us in peace: Thou dost renew Thy mercies and gifts to us. And we worship and adore the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one living and true God.

Unto Thee, O Lord, we commend ourselves this day. We pray Thee to have us

under Thy holy care and keeping; and to prosper us in our ways as shall seem good to Thee. We pray Thee that we may prove ourselves Thy servants, rejoicing that we are Thy children. Thou hast committed to us the knowledge of Thy name: grant that we may live day by day as those who are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour. Thou hast given to us eternal life, and this life is in the Son: grant us to know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Be with us with the knowledge that Thou art Love: and that he who dwelleth in love dwelleth in Thee: so may all our works be done in love to Thee and to our fellow man, and give us thus to work Thy work in Thee and for Thee.

We pray Thee to uphold and keep us in

all our ways. Grant that this day we may fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by Thy governance, to do always that is righteous in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

[NOTE—Repeat the Lord's Prayer morning and evening, and use a form of precatory blessing, as above.]

Monday Evening.

O Almighty God and Heavenly Father, we come before Thee as members of one family and household, acknowledging our transgressions and our sins, seeking Thy mercy and forgiveness, and casting ourselves upon Thee for help and protection through this night.

We have sinned; we have sinned and done evil in Thy sight. We acknowledge our readiness to fall away; our forgetfulness of Thee; our ignorance of Thy ways and of Thy will; our failure to walk according to that to which we have attained.

But we rejoice before Thee because of Thy mercy towards us, in that Thou dost shield

us from so many temptations, and dost guard us that we fall not utterly away. We lay hold of Thy promises in Christ Jesus, giving Thee thanks that there is forgiveness with Thee. We magnify and praise Thee, claiming for Christ's sake Thy mercy and pardon.

And now we pray Thee to bless us this night; to keep us from all evil; to preserve us in the midst of dangers. Give Thine angels charge over us to guard us. Be Thou our refuge and strength: grant that we may lie down and take our rest, because Thou makest us to dwell in safety. [Preserve, bless, and keep our children. Thou alone canst deliver them from the snares of evil men and from the seduction of flattering lips: deliver them from the evil which is in the world, and carry them forward as Thy children unto the eternal inheritance.]

We pray Thee to bless with us all whom we remember before Thee. We pray for our relations, friends, and benefactors. We pray for this place in which we dwell, that we may live quietly and godly in Thy faith and fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee, O Father, and with Thee, O Holy Ghost, one living and true God, be all honour and glory, now and for evermore. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

O Lord, our God and our King, we rejoice before Thee for Thy great goodness: we give thanks to Thee and bless Thy name for all Thy lovingkindness and faithfulness to us and to all Thy creatures. In quietness we have rested, and Thou hast caused us to dwell in safety. We arise to our works and duties, for Thou hast formed us to be Thy servants, and hast appointed to each of us our lot in life, and the task which Thou wouldest have us to fulfil.

Grant that we may occupy ourselves as those whom Thou hast made Thy children. And being redeemed and bought with the

price of the precious blood of Thy dear Son, may we work for Thy glory; and may we do all that we do, in Thy name.

Uphold us by the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and carry us through all temptation. Guard us in every difficulty; sanctify us in every state and condition in which we may be found, and keep us this day without sin.

Shew us in all things how we ought to walk and to please Thee. Grant us in health and strength to live the life of faith and hope and love. In cheerful obedience may we each submit ourselves to those who are over us, and give us each, in true lowliness, to fulfil our part in earning our daily bread and in doing our daily duty. May we serve one another [and those who employ us] as those who serve Thee: and in all our work and

duty may we live not for ourselves, but for others and for Thee.

Be Thou, O Lord, our refuge and defence, our sun and our shield. Deliver us from evil, and keep us in Thy peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

O God, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast created us, and redeemed us by Thine only begotten Son, and dost sanctify us by Thy Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that we are Thine; Thy creatures, Thy purchased possession, Thine own children by adoption and grace. Yet we have not honoured and glorified Thy name; we have forgotten Thy great grace to us; we have not fulfilled our place, nor done the work which Thou hast given us to do.

Pardon, O Lord, all our sins and shortcomings; forgive us whereinsoever we have done amiss; and grant us repentance unto

life, not to be repented of. Blessed be Thy name, O Lord our God, that there is mercy and forgiveness with Thee: that Thou art slow to anger and of great goodness. Blessed be Thy name that Thou dost accept us in Christ Jesus our Saviour, and for His sake dost pardon our offences. In Him we rejoice before Thee; in His blood we are washed, and Thou dost cleanse us; and in His righteousness we make our boast.

Bless us this night, we pray Thee; bless this family and household; be with those who are dear to us, O Lord, strengthening and upholding them all; keeping them in Thy ways, and preserving them from all wandering and error; have us all under Thy holy watching, and grant that we may abide under Thy care and protection; may be refreshed with sleep, and strengthened in body, soul, and

spirit, to the glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, to whom with Thee, O Father, and with the Holy Ghost, one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

O Lord, our God and our Father, who dwellest in the light which no man can approach unto, we bless Thee that Thou hast called us into being, and hast formed us for Thy praise. The heavens declare Thy glory, and the firmament showeth Thy handiwork: all things which Thou hast created fulfil their work and office. We give Thee thanks for our creation. We give Thee thanks that Thou hast preserved us again through the time of rest and sleep, and that Thou dost appoint to us also our work and duty. We bless Thee for all Thy guidance, and the instruction which Thou dost vouchsafe to us;

for Thy law and commandments; for the ministers and ordinances of Thy house; for the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, who abideth in the members of the body of Thy Son. Be with us, we beseech Thee; make our ways direct, that we may run in the path of Thy commandments: and being in all our works obedient to Thy holy will, and going forward in Thy ways, may we at length attain the glory of everlasting peace and rest. We pray for those whom Thou hast set over us in Thy Church and in the State. Uphold our Queen and her whole council: direct the magistrates and judges: and grant to all orders and conditions of men the knowledge of Thy ways and of Thy will.

And to us, O Lord, grant Thy grace this day, that we may walk worthy of our high calling; and remembering the account which

we shall one day give for all things done in the body, may we live in all humility, patience, and diligence, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

O Almighty Lord, and Everlasting God, we come before Thee in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, rejoicing that by the Holy Ghost Thou hast made us members of His body, and hast endowed us with His life. Grant that we may evermore live the life which we now live by the faith of the Son of God; and as He hath lived for us, and died for us, and risen again, so may we die unto sin, and walk in newness of life.

O Lord our God, we look to Thee for mercy and forgiveness. We have failed and have come short in Thy service; we know not our high calling and heavenly inheritance; we live as

those who forget Thee, and have not received Thy law and ordinances. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, and for the sake of the Lamb which taketh away the sin of the world, pardon and accept us: receive us graciously; love us freely.

We cast ourselves upon Thee, looking only for Thy mercy unto eternal life, praying Thee to preserve us from evil, and to keep us safe in danger. Give Thine angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways; and guide us with Thy most gracious and ready help.

We pray for all whom we remember before Thee: we pray for Christian parents, that they may bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We pray for Christian children, especially for those of this family and household, that they may

receive the engrafted word, and may walk worthy of their name and calling.

Hear us, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord and Saviour.

Thursday Morning.

O Lord, our Creator and our God, who hast appointed a day in which Thou wilt judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, we acknowledge Thy great might and majesty, and bow before Thee for Thy great glory. We bless Thee that the time hasteth greatly in which the creature shall rejoice in the manifestation of the sons of God, and that in the redemption of the body Thy full will and purpose shall be carried out. The things which Thou hast formed shall rejoice before Thee—the field and all that is therein: and we beseech Thee that we whom Thou hast formed for Thine own glory, may not be slack, but may now

magnify Thee day by day, and at the last may be found numbered with Thy jewels.

May we work while it is day. May we labour as those who shall give account. As servants and masters may we remember Thee our Lord and Master; and may this family and household abide safely under Thy keeping, enriched with Thy blessing.

Hasten, O Lord, that day of promised glory: hasten the day when Thou shalt arise to shake terribly the earth, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain; and grant that we, with all those who have departed this life in Thy faith and fear, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in Thine eternal and everlasting kingdom. May we abide continually as those who look for the fulfilment of all Thy word and promises, through Jesus

Christ, our Lord, to whom, with Thee, O Father, and with Thee, O Holy Ghost, one God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

O Lord God, heavenly Father, who hast given us exceeding great and precious promises that we should escape the corruption which is in the world, we acknowledge Thy goodness and mercy towards us; and we humble ourselves before Thee for all our failures and shortcomings. Have mercy upon us, O Lord; have mercy upon us, for Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's sake blot out all our iniquities. Accept us in Him as washed and justified, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from us.

We pray that we may endure stedfastly unto the end; and that, following on with

all simplicity and patience, we may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent; so may we come off at the last more than conquerors through Him who hath loved us. We pray that we may abide in the faith and the light of the Gospel, and, walking in love, may adorn the doctrine of our God and Saviour.

As a family and household we ask Thy blessing. Upon those who rule do Thou bestow Thy help, that they may remember Thee, their Master and their Lord. Upon those who serve do Thou bestow Thy help, that they may render their service as unto Thee, seeking to please Thee. So may we all dwell together as Thy servants, whom in Thy providence Thou hast made one family. So may we live in the fear of Thy holy name, and to the glory of the Lord Jesus.

Hear us, we pray Thee, for His name's sake, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Friday Morning.

O Lord God Almighty, who hast given us Thine only begotten Son, not only as a sacrifice for sin, but also as an example of godly life, we pray Thee that we may always receive that His inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of His most holy life. We bless Thee that the Lamb which taketh away the sin of the world hath purged us from our sin; and we pray that we may walk day by day in newness of life, as those who have put off the old man, which is corrupt, and have put on the new man, created after Thine own self.

Be with us through this day, guiding us in times of difficulty, preserving us in danger, shielding us in temptation. Be Thou our refuge and strength, our very present help in time of trouble.

For ourselves, and for all for whom we should pray, we lay hold of Thy word, Thy promises, Thy grace. We rejoice that Thou knowest all our ways; and we pray that we may be willing that all shall be plain and manifest in Thy sight. We pray Thee to uphold us in all our relations in life—as children, servants, parents, masters, ruled or rulers; grant that we may follow the example of Him who was subject in the days of His childhood; who was among us as a servant; who is the Father of the everlasting age; who learned obedience by the things which He suffered, and who is now exalted to Thy right

hand in power and great glory; and vouchsafe unto us all Thy mercy, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

Friday Evening.

O Lord our Lord, other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us; but by Thee only will we make mention of thy name. We turn unto Thee, who art our God and our Father. And for all our sins and transgressions we humble ourselves before Thee, seeking acceptance in Thy most righteous judgment, and praying for Thy mercy through our Lord and Saviour. Thou hast pardoned, yet we have sinned still. Thy mercy is new every morning, and to the night season, yet we provoke Thine anger. Thou hast loved us with an everlasting love, yet we have turned away from Thee. Pardon us, O Lord

most merciful, for the sake of Thy dear Son. Accept us in Him, grant us true and godly sorrow for our sins, and show us how we ought to walk and to please Thee. We pray Thee to be with us this night; do Thou preserve this family and household from all evil; watch over the place in which we dwell, and give Thine angels charge over us to keep us.

And as we pray for ourselves, we pray for all who rule over us. We pray Thee for our Sovereign, and for all who bear rule under her. We pray for magistrates, judges, and counsellors, and beseech Thee to remove occasion of war and bloodshed, and to hasten the day when the Lord of Hosts shall rule gloriously, and the kingdoms of the earth shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

These things we ask in the name and for the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom with Thee, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Saturday Morning

O Almighty and Eternal Lord our God, Thou hast brought us to the morning of another day, to the close of another week. We acknowledge Thine unwearied care and Thine unceasing patience. And we pray that we may wait upon Thee, showing forth Thy praise, not with our lips only, but in our lives.

Thou hast set before us that great change coming upon the earth, in which the things that can be shaken shall be removed, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. We bless Thee that in that day the Rock of Ages shall stand, and that all

in Him shall be hid in safety and shall be preserved from the evils which are coming. Hasten, O Lord, the time when Thou shalt send from Thy right hand Him whom Thou wilt send; and grant that in the day of His appearing and kingdom, we, with all Thy Church and people, may be presented before Thee with exceeding joy.

Keep us, we pray Thee, this day in the faith and fear of Thy holy name, and in the joyful expectation of the glory which shall then be revealed. Grant that our hope may be our salvation; and, armed against all the wiles of our spiritual foes, and strengthened with Thy might, may we prove ourselves Thy soldiers, fighting manfully under the banner of the Captain of our salvation.

So may we give up our account at the last with joy: and being changed into His image

from glory to glory by the Spirit of the Lord, may we perfect holiness in the fear of Thee, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday Evening.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, who hast kept us through the past day, and through another week, we bless Thee for Thy goodness, whilst we acknowledge before Thee all our sin. All the acts of our daily life are known to Thee, and come up before Thee. Hide Thy face from our sins, O Lord, and blot out all our iniquities. Create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us.

Pardon us, O Lord, for all the words which we have spoken not becoming saints; for all the deeds which we have done not befitting Thine own children. We acknowledge our proneness to sin, the evil of our hearts,

the failure of our efforts; and we cast ourselves wholly upon Thy mercy in Christ Jesus.

We bless Thee for redemption and salvation through Him. We bless Thee for His death for us, His burial, His resurrection; and we pray that we may die daily unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

Be with us this night, we beseech Thee. Be thou our shield and defence, our rock and salvation. Watch over us, and over all whom we remember before Thee. Give unto us that we may lie down in peace, and may awake rejoicing in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. As those who know Him and the power of His resurrection, may we rejoice on the morrow, and ever bearing about His dying may we live unto Him.

Hear us, we pray Thee, for His sake, to

whom, with Thee, O Father, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, we ascribe all honour and glory, praise and blessing, now and for ever. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

Lord's Day Morning.

O Almighty Lord and Everlasting King, who settest before Thy servants and Thy people the eternal rest which shall be their joy in Thy presence for evermore, and whom the holy hosts of heaven praise and magnify continually, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast raised us again in health and strength, and dost order all things by Thy providence that we may join in the full worship and service of Thy holy name.

Grant us, we pray Thee, such knowledge of Thy presence and such faith in Thee that we may bring into Thy courts our due share of

worship, praise and adoration. And as Thy household the Church is knit together in unity, in love, and in obedience, may we also as members of one family abide in peace, in mutual submission, in continual lowliness: each one remembering Thee in daily duty, and seeking to please Thee; being made ready for Thy kingdom and Thy glory.

We pray for those who shall minister Thy Holy Word and Sacraments, beseeching Thee that Thy truth may be made known to all who will do Thy will, and that Thy love may be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given unto us. So may we in this place in which we dwell be blessed of Thee, and be used for the blessing of others; walking in the light which Thou hast kindled and nourished with the food which Thou hast provided.

We commit ourselves in all things to Thy care, praying for Thy light unto eternal life; for Thy joy in the state of salvation unto which Thou hast called us; and for the supply of all our wants, according to Thy good pleasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Day Evening.

O Lord God Almighty, by whose grace and mercy we have been upheld and kept this day, we acknowledge that Thy tender mercy is over all Thy works; that Thy mercy endureth for ever; and that we who need that mercy, receive it continually.

We have acknowledged before Thee this day our sins and shortcomings as Thy Church and congregation, as members of the mystical body of Thy Christ; and Thy word of love and forgiveness has been made known to us, which is given us in our Saviour and our Lord. As members of one family and household we own and confess our manifold sins and our wanderings, and we plead for Thy mercy in Christ

Jesus, and for Thine acceptance of us for His sake.

We lie down this night assured of Thy forgiveness; and we pray that Thy peace may rest upon us and enfold us; that we may write no bitter things against ourselves; that we may be assured of mutual peace and concord; and that kept, with our whole neighbourhood, in peace we may rejoice in Thy care and protection.

And as we lie down to the silence of sleep we remember that our fathers and friends and relations have entered upon the sleep which waits for the resurrection. And we pray that we may so follow their good example that with them we may be made partakers of Thy bliss.

Hear us, we pray Thee, and sustain, and bless us according to all our need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday Morning.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in Thy rest from Thy labours of creation hast always worked for the good of all created things, we give Thee thanks that Thou hast upheld and kept us during the silence of the night, and hast brought us again to enter upon the toils and duties of our daily life. We take up all our duties as by Thine appointment and according to Thy will, and we pray that, abiding in Thy grace, nothing may hinder our attaining to the glory which Thou hast promised.

Thou knowest that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright,

and because of our failure to walk in Thy commandments and Thine ordinances the evils and the sins of life lay hold of us who are called to be saints; grant, we pray Thee, that we may abide in Thy holy fear unto salvation: and that in all our work and labour and business we may so set Thee before our eyes, and so walk in Thy service, that we may follow after obedience and righteousness and holiness, and go forward in the way of everlasting life.

Give Thine angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways: keep back from us the temptations of the evil powers: and strengthen us by Thy life in us that we may overcome all evil: and prove ourselves more than conquerors in Thy strength and Thy grace.

Preserve and deliver us from all evil, of

body, soul, and spirit, and grant us in Thy strength to fulfil all Thy will to the glory of Thy name, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday Evening.

O eternal and everlasting King and Lord of all the families upon earth, and of all that Thou hast formed in the heavens and in earth and under earth, Thee we adore and worship, offering to Thy holy name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost our worship, praise and thanksgiving; and humbling ourselves because of all our failure and of all our unworthiness.

Unto Thee all our ways are open: from Thee no secrets are hid: Thou hast seen us in our thoughts and plans and purposes, and Thou alone dost know how far we have failed in Thy ways, and wherein we have done Thy will. We bless Thee that Thou hast kept us

and hast hedged up our path: that Thou hast preserved us from evils which surround us, and that Thou hast held us from dishonouring Thy name. But we bewail and are sorry for our manifold sins and shortcomings, for the evil of our nature, for our proneness to depart from Thy ways.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, and, for the sake of Him who hath died for us and risen again, blot out all our iniquities and remember our sins no more.

O Lord our God, we remember before Thee those whom Thou layest upon our hearts; and all our relations and friends at home and abroad. We remember those who are cut off from the share in the ministrations of Thy word and sacraments. We remember those who labour to supply their needs: those also who preach Thy word and labour to make

disciples among the nations of the earth. We remember all in need of Thy help by land, by sea, and in all places of Thy dominion: and we pray that the time may come when the knowledge of Thee shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Accept our prayers and keep us, we beseech Thee, according to the good pleasure of Thy will in Christ Jesus our Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Tuesday Morning.

Almighty and most merciful Father, King and Lord, we yield and dedicate ourselves to Thee this day, praying for Thy protection and Thy blessing that we may do the things which are pleasing in Thy sight, and as members of the body of Thy Son may share in His exceeding and great reward.

O Thou whom angels and archangels worship and adore, we pray Thee that we for our part may not fail in our service and work and duty. Grant that we may so live our daily life that that life may be praise: and that our life may so be lived by the faith of Jesus Christ that we may worship Thee

therein, and give Thee the honour due to Thy great goodness.

Preserve our feet from every snare of the enemy, and keep us from all guile and malice: grant that our life may be pure and holy: and that the fear of Thee, and the love of Thee may be our shelter and guard and shield continually.

Whatsoever our hands find to do may we do it with our might, remembering how short and how uncertain our life is: and that our Lord hath said, Lo, I come quickly. Looking for and hasting unto His appearing and kingdom, may we be like servants whose Master will reckon with them when He cometh: and like those who wait upon Thee and for Thee as those who wait for the morning.

May all our doings be done in charity—in love to Thee and to our neighbour; and give

us so to abide in our Lord and Saviour that we may do to others as we would they should do to us.

So may we prove ourselves Thy servants and fulfil all Thy will: for the sake of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday Evening.

O Almighty God and Everlasting Father, who hast given us in Christ Jesus, The Only Begotten Son, to be the sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, we rejoice in Thy tenderness, and mercy, and compassion, and cast ourselves wholly upon Thy care, Thy guidance, and Thy protection.

We wander from Thy ways, but Thou dost uphold us by Thy free Spirit, and dost not suffer us wholly to depart from Thee. Thy presence is with us; our ways are known to Thee: and this night we humble ourselves before Thee, because of every error and sin in word, or thought, or deed, in act

or in consent. Against all our sins and failures we plead Thy love in Christ Jesus: we look to Him who taketh away the sin of the world, and we rejoice in the peace and mercy in which Thou makest us to rest.

We pray for all in need of Thy help: for all who travel by land or by sea: for all sick persons: for those who are under the influence and power of any evil spirit, praying Thee to uphold and bless all Thy creatures.

Thou hast given Thy word of promise that there shall be new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness: make us fit and ready for all to which Thou dost call us, and grant that, in the day when all things shall become new, we may enter upon Thy promised inheritance and abide for ever under the fulness of Thy blessing.

Into Thine hands we commit ourselves,

looking for the fulfilment of every word of Thy gracious and loving promises in time and in eternity, not for our own sakes, nor for our merits, but for the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Wednesday Morning.

O Almighty and most merciful God and Father of all the families upon earth, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased and the fruits of the earth are given for meat unto the children of men, we rise this morning from our beds in thankful adoration and praise because of all the mercies which Thou dost bestow: and because of all the evil from which Thou dost defend.

We rejoice before Thee for all which Thou dost allow us to enjoy in mind, body, and estate. We bless Thee for our reason: for the use of all the faculties and endowments by which Thou hast raised Thy creature man as

Lord of all Thy works on earth: we bless Thee for all the senses of our body and for the enjoyment of life in the use of our powers, and strength, and energy: we bless Thee for all which Thou bestowest for our food and clothing, for our shelter and defence: and we pray Thee that we may so use all Thy gifts as that we may serve Thee in the using, and may glorify Thy name.

May we remember that we are Thy servants and Thy stewards: and that we shall give account at the last for all things done in the body. So may we live not for ourselves, but for Thee: for Thee, in all in which we may please Thee: for Thee, in all those who need the help which we can minister. And remembering that our Lord and Saviour is despised and rejected still in all who are despised and rejected, may we be for the

comfort and help of all with whom we have to do: and for the upholding and assistance of all who have not that which we have.

So may we fulfil the law of love: and be acceptable in Thy sight: through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

Wednesday Evening.

O Lord Most High, infinite in mercy and in power, we come before Thee this evening in need of Thy mercy and forgiveness, and rejoicing in the love which assures us in Christ Jesus of that mercy and forgiveness. Where we have strayed, Thou hast held us back: where we have wandered, Thy charge has still been over us: where we have turned aside, Thy righteousness and mercy have sought and brought us to Thyself. And now we yield ourselves to Thee for the hours of rest and silence: at all times needing Thy protection, and leaning on Thy care and mercy. Watch over us, we pray Thee, as members of one family and household, and let us live

together in peace, and fulfil together our parts and duties.

As those who rule may we rule in the fear of Thy name, as those who are ruled by Thee; and as those in the place of obedience as children and as servants, may we fulfil our parts and duties as unto Thee, and for Thine honour only. Made like unto our Lord and Saviour by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, may we learn obedience by all we suffer, and submit ourselves to Thee in all we do: that our works may be begun, continued, and ended in Thee.

And as we have failed and come short of our high standing and of Thy rich grace, do Thou of Thy mercy blot out all our transgressions: and accept us for the sake of Thine only Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday Morning.

O Lord our King and our Father, who hast bought us unto Thyself by the precious blood of Thy dear Son, and hast accepted the sacrifice once offered for the sins of the whole world, we bless Thee that Thou hast exalted Him to be above every name, and that in His exaltation Thou dost make us great. We wait for the day when all His glory shall be made known, and shall come abroad, and when all the earth shall turn to Thee, and shall seek Thy glory and the knowledge of Thy goodness.

Thou makest us partakers of all Thy gifts now, and inheritors of all that shall be brought

to light in the kingdom which shall come. May we never forget the glory of our calling, the riches of the reward, the certainty of Thy word of promise: and enduring stedfastly unto the end, may we come off more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. And thus strengthened and upheld in Him may we go forward in our daily tasks and duties in Thee and for Thee : and receiving all things from Thee for time and for eternity, may we leave all things in Thy hands, rejoicing in receiving all which Thou givest, assured of Thy wisdom in all that Thou withholdest.

As Thy servants and Thy children may we run in the way of Thy commandments and work our work this day in patience and lowliness and trust. Grant us health both of body and of soul : quietness and peace in time of unrest : contentment and endurance in all that

comes upon us: grace to abide in the hope of the glory which shall be revealed.

Keep us, we beseech Thee, in all our ways: and make them wholly Thy ways: through Jesus Christ our Lord, and our Redeemer. Amen.

Thursday Evening.

O Almighty and most merciful God and Lord, who hast kept us this day from falling, and hast blest us in our times of need, Thy mercies are new every morning and Thy faithfulness is shewn forth in the night season. All Thy creatures work together for the accomplishment of Thy will and pleasure: and wherein we have done rightly we have worked our work this day according to Thine ordinance and Thine appointment.

We give Thee thanks for all Thy mercy and Thy keeping: we know that all our goings are in Thy sight: and all that we do is known unto Thee. Thy blessing has been with us as Thy mercies have sustained us.

And now we lie down in peace with Thee, assured of Thy forgiveness in the blood of the Lamb who hath died for us men and for our salvation. Bought with that price we leave ourselves in Thy hands who hast bought us: and cleansed in that fountain we yield ourselves to Thee who art pure and holy.

Committing ourselves to Thy care, we remember before Thee all for whom Thou wouldest be besought. We remember our Queen, and all who are in authority under her: the ministers of the Church, and all who wait upon holy things: all who labour among the heathen and in the dark places of the earth: all who are ignorant of Thy love and forgetful of Thee. Grant that we may walk as children of light, so that all with whom we have to do may rejoice in Thy light and may glorify Thee: grant that we may abound in

all good works, so that all may rejoice in Thy goodness to us.

We pray Thee to sustain and keep us this night. Give thine angels charge over us that we may be defended from all attacks of the powers of evil and of darkness: and hasten the time when Thine everlasting light shall shine over all the earth, and all shall know Thee from the least to the greatest.

Hear us, we pray Thee, and bless us for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday Morning.

O Lord our God, who hast given us Thine only begotten Son to be not only the sacrifice for sin, but also the ensample of a godly life, we pray that we may always receive that His inestimable benefit. As He died for sin once, may we die unto sin daily; as we are baptised unto His death, may we rise to newness of life. Always remembering that He hath given Himself for us, may we give up ourselves for Him and to His service: and be ready to run in the way of Thy commandment, and in the path which Thou hast marked out. Made members of His body and living stones of the temple in which

the Holy Ghost dwelleth, grant us to yield our members servants to righteousness and true holiness. We know that we have wandered from Thy ways and have left Thy will undone, and Thy commands unkept: and we look for Thy mercy, and for Thine acceptance of us, only for the merits of the one sacrifice once offered.

Keep us in all our ways: grant to those among us who are in sickness and infirmity Thy health and Thy strength: and to all in need of Thy help that help and assistance. We remember all who suffer in mind, body and estate: and we pray that Thy gracious gifts may supply the necessities of all Thy creatures.

We bless Thee for our food and clothing, and for all the mercies of this life: we bless Thee for our powers of mind, and that Thou

dost keep us in the exercise of our intellect and reason: we bless Thee for our powers of body, and for all activity and enjoyment: and we pray that in Thy might and Thy strength we may go forward in Thy ways.

Grant that this day we may fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger: bless us in body, soul and spirit, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Friday Evening.

Almighty and most merciful Father, by whose providence and care we and all things living are preserved, and whose love is shown in Thy tender pity and continual mercy, we come before Thee in trust and confidence and lowly adoration; thankful to Thee for what we know of Thy will; and trustful in Thee as to all to which we cannot attain. Thine own appointed time will make all things clear which now are above and out of our reach and knowledge; and we wait for the knowledge of Thy will, and for the accomplishment of all Thy good pleasure in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But we acknowledge that we have not walked according to the rule which we have received; nor according to the grace which Thou hast bestowed. We fail and come short in our thoughts, in our sayings, in our doings; and we have need of Thy forgiveness and of the blotting out of our sins and offences. We bless Thee for the precious blood which hath been shed for us; we lean upon the cross at which our redemption hath been purchased. As members of the body of Thy Son we rejoice that we share Thy love; and as needing Thy pardon, we bless Thee that Thy pardon is assured to us in Him.

We commend ourselves and all who desire our prayers to Thy care. We remember Thine ancient people and all those who have not received the knowledge of Thy gospel; and all those who in their own self-seeking

have rejected Thy word of truth. O Lord, we pray Thee to bind up the wounds of the body, and to repair the breaches of the city; and to let Thy light and Thy truth be known unto all men.

We pray for peace to our land and the neighbouring countries; for peace among our fellow countrymen; for Thy restraining grace over the careless and those who are out of the way; for Thine upholding care of all who fulfil Thy mind. Keep us and all our relations and friends in the peace which passeth understanding, and in that peace give us to abide in life, in death, and unto the glorious immortality.

Hear, accept, and bless us, we pray Thee, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday Morning.

O Lord, our Father and our King, our Refuge and Defence, Thou hast again renewed Thy mercies to us and made known Thy faithfulness and Thy love. Thou hast brought us again to the light of day, as Thou wilt bring to the eternal day all who sleep in Jesus, and Thou dost send us forth to our work and labour in the renewal of life and strength, as Thou wilt employ and use us in the eternal life. We pray that in all our ways and works we may remember that the time cometh when no man can work, and that we may give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, so that we may be found in

our Saviour in that day. Thou wilt bring us into judgment, and Thou hast committed all judgment unto Thy Son; and even so we have an Advocate, and the Lord the Spirit is our Comforter. Grant us to abide in His grace and life and power; and while we walk in all lowliness and humility may we be upheld in the joyful trust and happy confidence in Thee.

All Thy works praise Thee, O God, and Thy saints sing unto Thy name. We praise Thee; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord, and with all the hosts of heaven we laud and magnify Thy great name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Take us under Thy care this day, and grant that whether in labour or in recreation we may remember Thee, and may live in the fear of Thee and in the love of Thee. Do

Thou appoint and order all our ways and goings that we may do the things which are pleasing in Thy sight; and work the works which Thou wilt acknowledge in the day when Thou shalt render to every man according to that which he hath done.

Keep us from all evil and preserve us in the midst of dangers, known and unknown, that this night we may again rejoice before Thee for Thy mercy and protection, working now as those who wait for the rest which remaineth for the people of God.

Be with us, we pray Thee, according to Thy mercy and our needs, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday Evening.

O Almighty and everliving God, who hast formed all things for Thine own pleasure, and for the manifestation of Thy glory, and who wilt be glorified by those that believe, and by those to whom Thou wilt reveal Thyself in the day of Thy kingdom and power, we give Thee thanks for the goodness and mercy which follows us all the days of our life: for the mercies of the night: for the seasons in their courses: for the rain and the sunshine, the heat and the cold. We call upon all Thy works to praise Thee, and with them we fain would bring our praise and thanksgiving.

But we and our fathers have wandered

from Thy ways, and have left undone the things which we ought to have done: we have sinned, we have sinned, we have grievously sinned against Thee: against Thy greatness and Thy mercy, Thy love and Thy goodness. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, and for the sake of Thy dear Son hide Thy face from our sins and blot out all our iniquities. We lean only upon Thy mercy, and plead only the merits of our Lord and our Redeemer.

And now we pray Thee to make us fit and ready for the day of rest and peace, unto the lively hope of which we have been begotten by the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Looking for that day and hastening unto it, may we fulfil our part in patient endurance and in active duty as shall seem good to Thee: and grant us rest in sleep this

night, that we may be refreshed on the morrow, in sharing in the worship and service of Thy Church and congregation.

To Thy gracious mercy and care we yield ourselves, praying for Thy protection and Thy help, and having learned our need of Thy guidance, we pray for Thy continual direction and pity. Bless us and all who need Thy blessing: all whom we may remember before Thee; for the sake of our only Mediator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Additional Petitions which may be Inserted in a Fitting Place in the Morning and Evening Prayer.

For a Sick Member of the Family.

We especially pray Thee for (N. or M.) unable to take part with us in our prayer and praise. Oh Thou, who art the healer and Saviour of all! vouchsafe the renewal of health and strength: rebuke and put away all infirmity of body, and grant that, with the lengthening of days and improvement in health, we may all rejoice in Thy mercy towards *(him)* and towards us.

For an Absent Member of the Family.

We remember Thy servant *(the head of this house and family), (or N. or M.),* now separated from us. Preserve and keep *(him)* in all *(his)* ways: prosper *(him)* in his goings: defend *(him)* from all danger and accident: and bring *(him)* home in peace and safety.

On any Special Occasion of Rejoicing.

At all times, O Lord, we thank Thee for Thy grace and goodness: but especially this day wherein Thou makest us glad because of Thy mercy, in having [*here mention special subject of thanksgiving.*] We pray that a full knowledge of Thy goodness and of our dependence upon Thee, may make us to walk humbly, and to rejoice with sobriety, giving Thee the praise and the honour due unto Thy name.

On any Occasion of General Anxiety.

O Lord, we know that Thou dost order all things which are in heaven and in earth, and that nothing shall happen but by Thine allowance or appointment. We bear our burden; but we cast ourselves upon Thy help, and we pray Thee to deliver us in Thine own good time from our present common sorrow in this *(war* or *pestilence)*.

LONDON:
KERBY & ENDEAN, 190 OXFORD STREET,
Printers and Publishers.